(b) whether some of them are in a neglect state due to necessary protection not given by the Archaeological Survey of India;

(c) if so, the details therof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect such heritage sites in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There are 285 centrally protected monuments/sites in Maharashtra. Of these, Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta caves have been declared as World Heritage Sites by the UNESCO.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Apart from carrying out regular maintenence and repairs the Archaeological Survey of India carries out special repairs as and when required depending on the specific requirement of the monument/heritage sites subject to the availability of funds.

**Capital Gains Tax**

3867. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI :

SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any decision is under consideration with Government for the reduced rate of Capital Gains tax under Income-tax Act 1961 Section 112 in the Union Budget of 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also decided to remove the discrimination so as to enable private sectors/Indian companies as well as to have a level playing fielid to enable them also to have degree of acess to capital also as to enable them as well to grow thereby perform their part in the growth and prosperity of the nation; and

(d) the measures taken by Government in this direction as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Clause 46 of the Finance Bill, 2000 contains a proposal for reducing the rate of tax from 20% to 10%

(without indexation benefits) on the long-term capital gains arising from the transfer of units of Unit Trust of India and units of Mutual Funds.

(c) and (d) Prior to amendment brought about by the Finance Act, 1999, the rate of tax on long-term capital gains arising out of transfer of certain securities in the case of non-resident assessees was 10% as against the rate of 20% applicable for resident assessees. The Finance Act, 1999 amended section 112 of the Income-tax Act providing for reduced rate of tax of 10% to any assessee in respect of long-term capital gains on listed securities without adjustment of Cost Inflation Index. Thus, the Government has already removed the discrimination between the resident and non-resident investors thereby providing greater opportunities of access to capital and growth to Indian companies. The benefit of reduced rate of capital gains tax is being extended to units of UTI and Mutual Funds by the Finance Bill, 2000, as stated in replies to parts (a) and (b) above.

**Downsizing of Government Employees**

3868. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions have been issued regarding downsizing of Government employees in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the extent to which Government propose to reduce the employees both in percentage of existing strength in each category;

(d) whether Government also propose to wind up existing Ministries/ Departments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what action is proposed to be taken for reduction of Government expenditure other than pay and allowances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) An exercise to reduce posts by 10% with reference to the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.92 has been underway. As per the information available in this Ministry, so far around 1.60 lakh posts have been abolished under this exercise.